METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INCREASING VIRUS DETECTION SPEED USING A DATABASE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A virus detection method is disclosed for use in a computer system that contains at least one object that may potentially become infected with a computer virus. The method has steps of providing a database for storing information that is descriptive of a state of the at least one object as it existed at a point in the past and, for an object that is indicated as having a current state that is described by the stored information, a step of programmatically examining the object for a presence of a computer virus while assuming that the current state of the object is the same as the state of the object as it existed at the point in the past. The virus detection method, system and computer program uses the database to store additional information, beyond what is necessary to determine simply whether or not a particular object, such as a file, has changed, and to then employ this additional information to achieve a more rapid virus scan, even when the list of viruses being scanned for has changed since a previous scan.